

opportunity to work within the confines of the Second Amendment to pass legislation that will reduce gun violence and keep our communities safe. Responsible gun owners across our country understand that. It is time for the Republican leadership in the House to understand it, too.

Mr. Speaker, give us a vote.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NICHOLAS "CORKY" DEMARCO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on Friday afternoon, I was deeply saddened to hear about the passing of one of West Virginia's finest gentlemen, Nicholas "Corky" DeMarco.

A lifelong West Virginian, Corky was a leader in our State, in both private and public service. For those of you who did not have the privilege of knowing him, let me tell you a little bit about him.

I got to know Corky through our discussions about how West Virginia can benefit from our natural bounty. Under Governor Cecil Underwood, Corky served as the director of operations for the State and helped bring more jobs and industries to West Virginia.

Most recently, Corky served as the executive director of the West Virginia Oil and Natural Gas Association. During his time with the association, he more than tripled their membership and made significant contributions to the oil and gas industry in West Virginia.

His devotion to growing jobs in our State was strong, but his love for family came before anything else. For Corky, the most important thing in life was his family: his wife, Catherine; two grown sons, Matthew and Joey; and his stepson, Jason Milano.

I join all West Virginians in keeping Mr. DeMarco's family in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Corky will be truly missed.

OPIOID ADDICTION

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, overuse of prescription pain medication is one of the leading causes of opioid addiction. When a patient has more narcotic pain medication than they need after a medical event, this excess medication can fall into the wrong hands.

Narcotic pain medication in the wrong hands often leads to addiction. In fact, the National Institute on Drug Abuse has found that 1 in 15 people who take nonmedical prescription pain relievers will try heroin.

Last year, the number of fatal overdoses from prescription painkillers increased by 16 percent—and 28 percent from heroin—in the United States. In West Virginia, the story is even worse. According to a recent study by the Trust for America's Health, the Mountain State has the highest rate of overdose deaths in the entire United States.

This issue is above party politics. It is a plague that all Americans must come together to solve. That is why, in February, I introduced H.R. 4499, the Promoting Responsible Opioid Prescribing Act. This bipartisan bill strikes a harmful provision of ObamaCare that places unnecessary pressure on doctors and hospitals to prescribe narcotic pain medication.

This concern was brought to my attention while meeting with doctors and other healthcare professionals in Charleston, West Virginia, who are active in our State's medical society. I thank them for bringing this to my attention. It is a perfect example of how government works well. You bring an issue to your Congressman's attention, and he takes action to solve it.

This was their idea. I thank them for bringing it to our attention. I encourage everyone to bring the ideas you have to help fight back against the opioid epidemic to your local Congressman.

I am proud to say that, less than a week ago, the Department of Health and Human Services announced they are implementing the important policy changes contained in my bill. Almost word for word, the new rules are exactly what my bill says need to be done.

Since I first introduced the PROP Act in February, I have been calling on Congress to pass my bill. This bipartisan legislation has 27 Republican cosponsors and 16 Democratic cosponsors. My bill puts doctors, not the Federal Government, in control of opioid-prescribing decisions. This change in policy is an important fight against opioid abuse.

I want to thank the 43 cosponsors in the House and the 8 cosponsors in the Senate in our successful effort to pass this bill's policies through regulation and help put an end to opioid abuse.

LET'S PUT AN END TO GUN VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, our Nation has been repeatedly confronted by senseless and tragic acts of gun violence; and now our country grieves with yet more heartache following the shocking and horrific attack in Dallas last week, an attack that took place during a peaceful protest where citizens were exercising their basic rights as Americans, as Dallas police officers supported and protected this fundamentally American right.

As President Obama said: "There is no possible justification for these kinds of attacks or any violence against law enforcement."

This event added to an already heartbreaking week, after the deaths of Philando Castile in Minnesota and Alton Sterling in Louisiana. Today, I am thinking of their families, friends,

and loved ones, as I am of the 49 lost at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando just a month ago.

I believe that law-abiding citizens have a constitutional right to own firearms, whether for sport or personal protection; but I also know that responsible personal freedom and public safety are not mutually exclusive.

Shootings have become unacceptably commonplace in our country, and Congress has a responsibility to do more to keep guns out of the hands of criminals, domestic abusers, and the dangerously mentally ill. In fact, recent polls show that support for universal background checks hovers around 90 percent.

No other developed country in the world has the same rate of gun violence as the United States. According to United Nations data, the gun homicide rate in our country is more than 7 times that of Sweden, 6 times that of Canada, and, unbelievably, 21 times that of Australia.

As President Obama stated, following the shooting in Oregon: "We are the only advanced country on Earth that sees these kinds of mass shootings every few months."

I agree with Dallas Police Chief David Brown when he said that police departments cannot be expected to solve our Nation's gun violence problem by themselves. As policymakers, we must be doing more. We should all be inspired by Chief Brown's commitment and willingness to work through personal heartbreak toward a more just and violence-free society.

Chief Brown's urgency is echoed in letters I have received from young people in my district. Headlines in our communities and those that make national news do not go unnoticed by our Nation's youngest citizens, children who are growing up with heightened fear, some even afraid to go to school.

Abbey, age 13, from Gardner, Massachusetts, wrote to me: "Every single day at school, I am scared an armed intruder will come in," going on to say that "the amount of gun violence in our country is piling up, and we need to stop it."

Andrew, a high school freshman from Dracut, wrote: "I have been noticing there are more shootings lately, maybe because I am getting old and paying more attention to what is happening around me than I did before." Imagine, at 14, he is feeling old as he watches our news.

Miriam, from Acton, wrote: "I am only 17 years old, so this current climate of fear and violence is all I have ever known. However, I know that this amount and frequency of bloodshed is not and should not be normal."

As a mother, grandmother, and American citizen, it is unconscionable that our children and grandchildren are growing up in a world where they see mass shooting after mass shooting, met only by a moment of silence on this floor.

Mr. Speaker, in Congress, we have a moral responsibility to pursue change.

We must address the senseless violence and injustice afflicting our Nation with “the fierce urgency of now,” to quote the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Our call to action is made more painful and more real with each passing day.

Mr. Speaker, bring a vote to the floor on commonsense, universal background check legislation that will keep guns out of the hands of terrorists, criminals, domestic abusers, and the dangerously mentally ill.

GUN BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bipartisan legislation I have recently filed to keep guns out of the hands of terrorists.

H.R. 5576, the Terrorist Firearms Prevention Act of 2016, is similar to the bipartisan agreement championed by Senator SUSAN COLLINS, and would deny the sale of firearms to individuals on the no fly and selectee lists, while ensuring due process is protected for law-abiding gun owners.

It was recently announced the House is unlikely to consider any legislation this week pertaining to terrorist access to firearms, and for this, I am truly disappointed.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to do something, and this commonsense, bipartisan legislation is a step in the right direction. I will continue to work with Members on both sides of the aisle to strike a bipartisan compromise that will protect law-abiding citizens' constitutional rights, while denying the sale of guns to terrorists.

RECOGNIZING NORBERTO ORELLANA

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Norberto Orellana, an incredible young man who, despite facing health challenges and long-term homelessness, recently graduated from the School for Advanced Studies at the Miami-Dade College Homestead campus with a near perfect GPA, a full ride to college, and a dream to go to medical school.

Mr. Orellana has already confronted more hardships in his young life than many of us will encounter in our lifetimes, but he does so with a positive attitude that inspires all of us.

Mr. Orellana was born with cerebral palsy, a permanent movement disorder caused by abnormal development in the part of the brain that controls balance and posture.

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By the time he was 5, he had undergone three major surgeries to correct a club foot, lengthen his muscles, and reshape his bones.

He and his family also battled homelessness, moving from shelter to shelter. However, he never allowed his circumstances to dictate his attitude or detract from his belief in his own potential. He used his time spent in hos-

pitals to fuel his burning desire to become a pediatric orthopedic surgeon.

It is an honor for me to recognize Mr. Norberto Orellana on the occasion of his graduation. I cannot wait to see what the future holds for such a bright young mind.

COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO DESTROY ISIL

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the attacks in Orlando, San Bernardino, and across Europe are a horrific reminder that the war on terror continues, and that radical extremism from groups like ISIL remains a danger to all freedom-loving people. It is critical that a plan is in place to destroy this enemy before the United States and our allies face more senseless violence from cowardly terrorists.

For these reasons, I have cosponsored Representative KINZINGER's bill, H.R. 4869, the Comprehensive Strategy to Destroy ISIL Act of 2016. This legislation directs the Secretaries of State and Defense to submit a joint report to Congress on the strategy to destroy ISIL and its affiliates.

It is imperative the U.S. and our allies defeat these radical terrorists on their home turf, and this legislation will require a plan from the administration to do just that. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass this critical bill.

CONGRATULATING TWO FLORIDA KEYS COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT-TEAMS

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two Florida Keys Community College student-teams who won five medals, two of them gold, at the annual NASA Engineering Challenges at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

This yearly competition is geared towards encouraging students to pursue STEM-related fields. The TechKeys and RocketTrees worked together to take home the gold in the high-altitude balloon experiment.

FKCC is one of only three colleges in Florida to receive a \$134,000 grant from the Florida Space Grant Consortium to support the program for 2 years. This grant also provides scholarships to each participating student. Each of these students is also now eligible for an internship at NASA as long as they remain enrolled in a Florida college.

Congratulations to the students and their professor, Dawn Ellis, on this prestigious accomplishment. I am proud that they are bringing awareness to the importance of science, technology, engineering, and math.

OUR NATION IS TIRED OF GUN VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, our Nation is grieving. We are tired. We are tired of the violence that too often unsettles our communities.

What a week we had last week. We were horrified by the deaths of Lorne Ahrens, Michael Smith, Michael Krol, Patrick Zamarripa, and Brent Thompson—five officers murdered by a sniper in Dallas while they were on duty.

We saw very troubling videos of Philando Castile and Alton Sterling being shot.

Today we also mark the 1-month anniversary of the shooting at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, a hateful act on the LGBT community that took the lives of 49 people. This shooting shook the country, as have the many mass shootings that have preceded it.

As we still process these deaths, daily violence continues in communities around the country. Over the weekend, the total number of shootings in Chicago, where I come from, this year exceeded 2,100. Over 300 people in Chicago have now died from gun violence in 2016.

I have received hundreds and hundreds of letters from constituents of all ages concerned about the effect of gun violence in our communities and in their communities.

Yesterday I received a letter from a young constituent, an 8-year-old named Kaline. She wrote: “I read the Sun-Times every day like my dad. I read and still think about the story of Tyshawn Lee. It's just hitting my mind all the time because it's not fair. It makes me cry.”

Tyshawn Lee was a 9-year-old boy in Chicago deliberately assassinated, shot multiple times in the head.

Kaline continues: “I hope people can make better decisions about what to do with guns. I hope people stop fighting about whether we should do gun control because I worry more people and kids like Tyshawn will be killed.”

We can't accept violence as normal. This is not the country Kaline should have to grow up in. And how do you explain to an 8-year old that in America, with 91 people dying from gun violence every single day, we have taken no meaningful action?

We take action all the time to protect our kids from threats to their safety. We have regulations in place on teddy bears and pacifiers, to protect children's health and safety, but nothing for guns.

Guns are specifically exempted from regulation by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the agency charged with protecting consumers from unreasonable risk or injury or death. Gun manufacturers are protected from liability for damage caused by their weapons. The Centers for Disease Control is actually prohibited, in law, from studying the public health risk of guns.

Robert, a 91-year-old and a veteran of World War II from my district wrote: “You know better than I do the vast array of efforts to protect the American people from the recklessness and avarice in the marketplace, yet Congress has failed the people in the matter of gun control . . . Today the